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8 July 1965

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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Congo: President Kasavubu's summary dismissal of Minister of Interior Godefroid Munongo, a close ally of Premier Tshombé, invites a showdown between Kasavubu and Tshombé.

Munongo, who was elected governor of East Katanga Province last month, failed to appear at a swearing-in ceremony for provincial governors. This enraged Kasavubu. Munongo apparently did not appear because he feared he might be maneuvered out of both jobs.

Munongo, who engaged in heavy-handed tactics as minister of interior, was a prime target of the anti-Tshombists who were working for his early departure from Leopoldville.

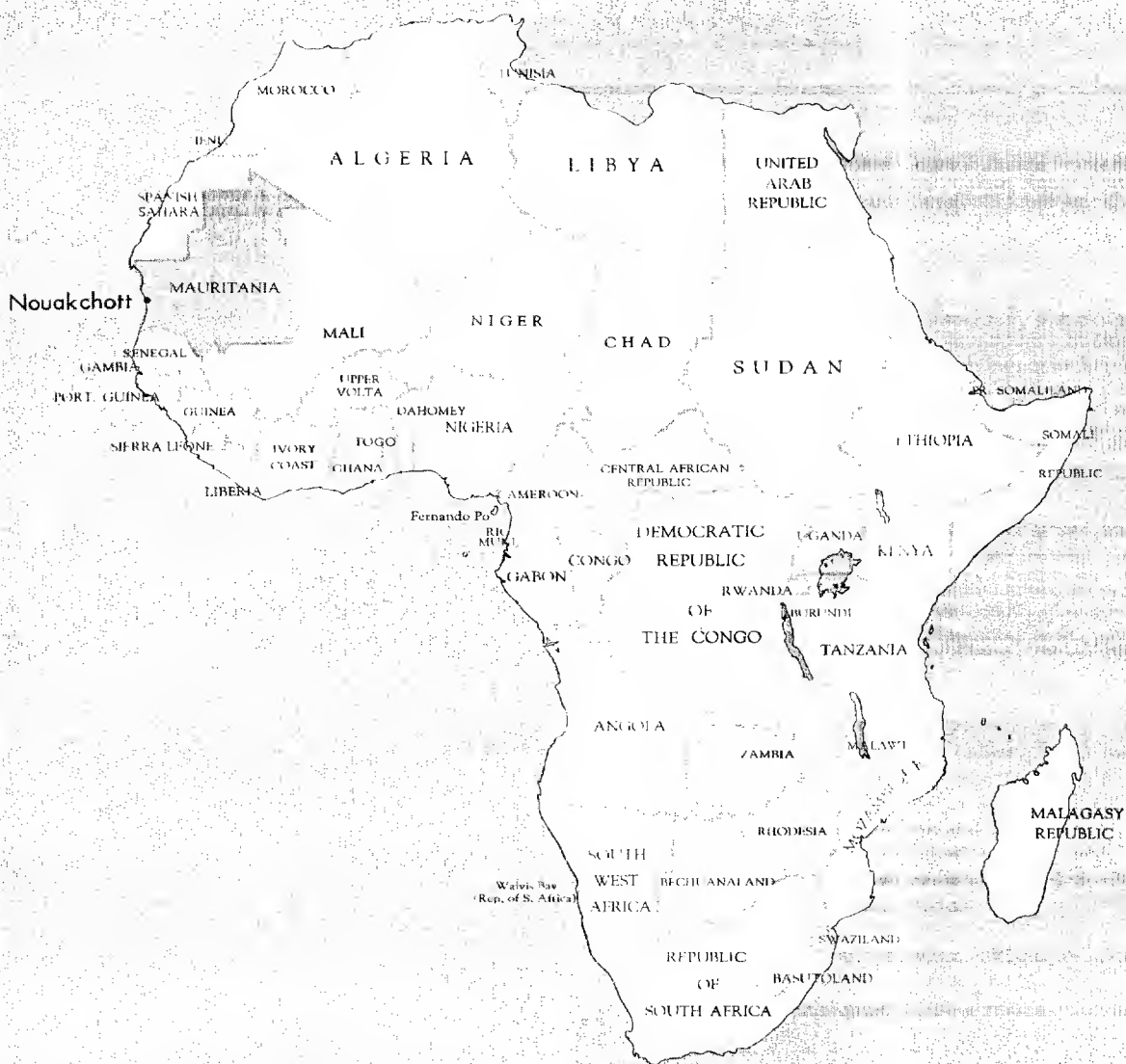
The embassy reports that Kasavubu's move is causing a major political furor in Leopoldville. It feels that the lack of confidence between the two factions is now almost total and the situation may have reached the point where either Kasavubu or Tshombé might try to throw the other out.

The Kasavubu-Tshombé political battle, now several months old, is basically a struggle for the powerful office of the presidency, which Kasavubu wants to retain, and to which Tshombé is clearly attracted. Kasavubu's supporters have been trying to force him into a showdown. Up to now at least the president has sought to avoid a frontal attack in view of Tshombé's superior assets, and instead to try slowly to whittle away at Tshombé's strong political base.

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Mauritania: Mauritania has taken another step toward aligning itself with the radical African states.

President Moktar Ould Daddah has served notice that he is withdrawing Mauritania from the moderate Afro-Malagasy Common Organization (OCAM). OCAM originated at a February 1965 meeting in Nouakchott with Moktar as its titular head. Effective leadership, however, has since been seized by Ivory Coast President Houphouet-Boigny. The latter called a meeting in May, over Moktar's objection and without his presence, for the purpose of bringing Congo-Leopoldville into OCAM. This evidently was the chief provocation for Mauritania's withdrawal.

Mauritania has found itself in increasing disagreement with moderate French-speaking African states on such issues as the acceptability of Tshombé and participation in the aborted Afro-Asian conference. The French ambassador in Nouakchott attributes the shift to the increasing influence on Moktar of certain pro-Arab ministers.

Since late 1964, Moktar has permitted several Communist countries to open embassies in Nouakchott. Before the February meeting, Moktar was apparently considering recognizing Communist China.

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Common Market: [French moves of the past few days make it clear that Paris hopes to intimidate the other member countries on the specific issues in the Common Market dispute and to hobble the community's institutional structure.]

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[By boycotting all community meetings, the French are trying to force the other members to deal directly with Paris. According to the US Mission to the EEC, the effect of this is to bypass the EEC Commission in particular in favor of a return to "classical bilateral diplomacy." The French press is claiming that, as a result, De Gaulle's concept of a "Europe of States" is already taking over.]

[Paris appears confident that this strategy will win and has reaffirmed that it will not attend any new meetings in Brussels. The announced new measures in Paris to aid the French farmer were designed to discourage any opposition which might come from that quarter.]

[The other five members and the commission seem uncertain as to what to do. There is an unconfirmed press report that the Italians and Germans have agreed to go ahead with the 26 July EEC Council meeting even if the French do not attend.]

[Dutch officials claim The Hague will stand firm, but the mood in Belgium and Luxembourg is one of compromise. Foreign Minister Spaak, who was sympathetic with the French position in the 30 June council meeting, is eager to play the role of "honest broker." According to a Belgian official, however, Belgium has also considered the possibility of the Five's forming a "solid front" to call De Gaulle's "bluff" or even to consider a new grouping with EFTA countries.]

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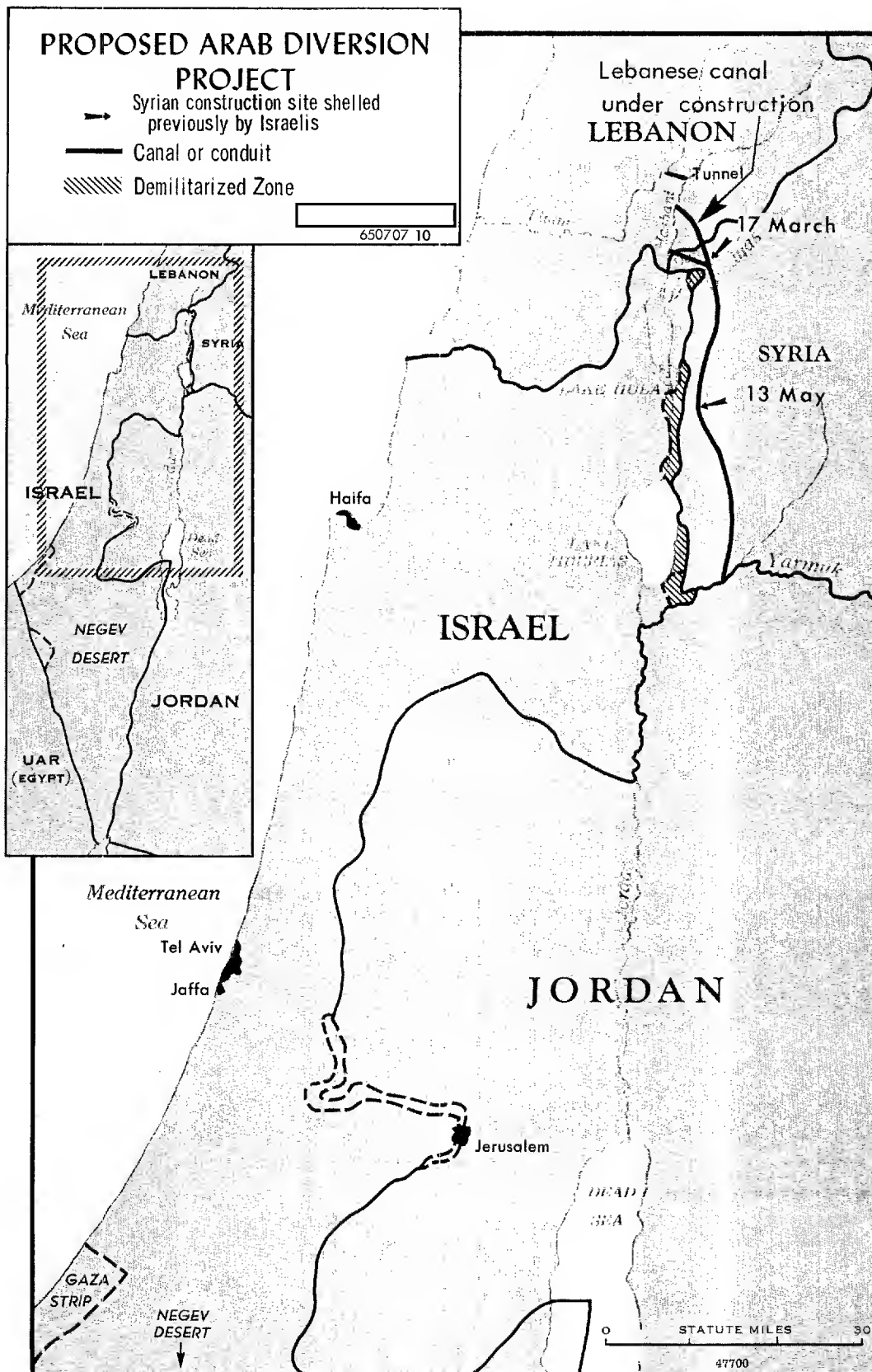
UK: [British officials are reportedly examining the military research and development effort with a view to concentrating on guerrilla and limited war requirements rather than on more sophisticated weapons systems for NATO. Defense Minister Healey backs the proposed shift, which would help reduce defense spending and focus efforts on the "East of Suez" area where he believes Britain can make a special contribution. The proposal, which apparently resulted from ministerial discussions held last month on the Defense Policy Review, will be opposed by those who argue that it would mean permanently opting out of participation in large areas of advanced weapons development, with corresponding losses in related civilian fields.]

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Greece: [Prime Minister Papandreou, apparently believing he has popular support as a result of an enthusiastic reception at a recent public gathering, reportedly is determined to remove Defense Minister Garoufalias and assume the portfolio himself. The two major progovernment newspapers have long demanded the removal of Garoufalias, whom they accuse of being a man of the Palace, and one paper has warned the King that opposition by him to Papandreou's plan would be "unthinkable." Garoufalias, apparently confident of support from the Palace, has so far refused to resign]

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Iraq: President Arif's efforts to remove pro-Nasir officials have paralyzed the Iraqi Government for more than a week. Some ten pro-Nasirist ministers have submitted their resignations. Arif is attempting to reconstitute his government, but is having great difficulty assembling a crew for what many Iraqis consider to be a sinking ship. Factions in the government will be under increasing pressure to resolve their differences, but the continuing political crisis has produced a new spate of rumors that a coup will remove the regime entirely.

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Israel-Lebanon: The Israelis, who claim Lebanon is making "serious" progress on a canal to divert the Jordan River's headwaters, are urging the US to dissuade the Lebanese from further diversion activity. Israeli military leaders apparently are pressing the government to approve military action against the Lebanese similar to that taken against Syria on two occasions earlier this year. Lebanon's construction work has largely been an effort designed to ward off charges of inaction on the project by other Arab states.

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